

**CLAIMS:**

1. A reclosable bag having a reclosable zipper and a top seal which is openable to gain access to the zipper, the  
5 bag having an elongate tear element which protrudes from the bag and which can be grasped and pulled to open the top seal and enable access to be gained to the reclosable zipper.

2. A bag according to claim 1, in which the tear  
10 element is attached to the zipper and extends through the top seal to protrude from the top of the bag.

3. A bag according to claim 2, in which the tear  
element is attached to the zipper by a peel seal material.  
15

4. A bag according to any preceding claim, in which the  
tear element is coated with a peel seal material.

5. A bag according to any preceding claim, in which the  
20 tear element comprises a strip, tape or string.

6. A method of manufacturing a bag according to claim  
1, in which zippers are applied transversely at spaced  
intervals to a web of film material, lengths of elongate tear  
25 element are attached to the zippers, tail portions of the  
lengths of elongate element are positioned to lie within the  
area where the top seal is intended to be formed, the bags,  
including the top seals, are formed from the web and severed  
to form individual bags in which an end portion of the  
30 elongate element protrudes through the top seal.

7. A method according to claim 6, in which the tail  
portions are concertinaed to line with the top seal areas of  
the bags.

8. A method according to claim 6 or 7, in which the lengths of elongate element are attached to the lengths of zipper at the same time as the lengths of zipper are applied to the web.

5

9. A method according to claim 6 or 7, in which the tail portions are concertinaed to line with the top seal areas of the bags attached to the lengths of zipper at the same time as the lengths of zipper are applied to the web.

10

10. A method according to any of claims 6 to 9, in which the lengths of elongate element are positioned to lie to the sides of the respective zipper strips that are adjacent the respective top seals.

15

11. A method according to any of claims 6 to 10, in which the elongate elements are coated with a peel seal material.

20

12. A method according to any of claims 6 to 11, in which the elongate element comprises a strip, tape or string.

13. A reclosable bag substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the drawings.

25

14. A method of manufacturing a reclosable bag, the method being substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the drawings.

30